Dwindling tourist traffic in States

2299. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the dwindling tourist traffic in different States, especially the bird and wild life sanctuaries and National Parks in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Gujarat; and

(b) if so, which particular tourist spots in different States have come to adverse notice over the last three years on the National Tourism Radar, indicating the main tourist attractions of each tourist resort and how far the tourist traffic has dwindled during 2002-03,2003-04 and 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a)As per the information received from the State Governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat, while no data on tourist traffic to Bird and Wild life Sanctuaries and National Parks is maintained by the State of Maharashtra, in case of Gujarat there is no dwindling of tourist traffic in the State. In case of Rajasthan, while the general tourist arrival to the State is showing increasing trend since 2002, at a few tourist places there are fluctuations over the years.

(b) Tourist traffic to Bird/Wild life Sanctuaries and National Parks in Rajasthan is indicated below:—

Sl. No.	Tourist Place	Year		
		2002	2003	2004
1.	Alwar	123115	183762	205986
2.	Sariska	14910	8421	8992
3.	Swai Madhopur	54817	48653	111373
4.	Bharatpur	66542	79285	107216

Development of pilgrim centres as tourist attractions

2300. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any list of pilgrim centres as prime tourist attractions in the country;

(b)the number of temples identified as major tourist attractions in Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration of Government to develop the tourist infrastructure of the pilgrim centres in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Identification and development of tourist centres/pilgrim centres is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Ministry of Tourism has been assisting the State Governments through its scheme of Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits and Infrastructure Development of tourist destinations during the 10th Plan. No proposal has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu for development of any pilgrim centre during 2004-05.

Revenue through tourism industry

†2301. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue realised through the tourism industry in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) to what extent, it is less or more, in comparison to the revenue realised during the last ten years; and

(c) the action plan formulated by Government to boost the revenue through tourism industry in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Total foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the year 2004 have been estimated at Rs. 21,828 crore as against Rs. 16,428 crore during 2003 and Rs. 14,195 crore during 2002 showing a positive growth of about 32.9% during 2004 over 2003, and 15.7% during 2003 over 2002.

(c) Various steps taken by the Government to boost the revenue through tourism industry include:—

Development of tourist spots under its various schemes of infrastructure development of tourist circuits and destinations;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.